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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 5 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY, 1923 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 8th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner of McAllister and Larkin Streets. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

Dr. H. C. Bryant will be with us again this evening and has agreed to tell us something of his "Experiences with Yosemite Birds." Visitors will be welcome.

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FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Easton, on Sunday, February 11th. Party will form at corner of Fifth and Market Streets, San Francisco, to take motor bus leaving there about 8:55 a. m. East Bay members should reach Ferry Building not later than 8:20 and take car up Market to Fifth Street. Bring lunch and canteens. Leave bus at Easton Drive. Walk to top of ridge; to San Andreas Lake, and back to highway near Millbrae, about nine miles. Bus fare twenty five cents each way.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING: The sixth annual meeting of the Association was held on January 11th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Miss Ames, Recording Secretary; fourteen members and two guests in attendance.

The annual reports of the President and the Outing Committee were read, followed by a general discussion of association welfare and procedure. Mr. Smith commented upon the fact that the out of town school teacher was in a most favorable location for carrying on the work of Audubon Societies, but was handicapped by isolation from technical aid, and he offered a motion that a committee be appointed to study ways and means for furnishing such assistance, which was duly seconded and carried.

Mr. Joseph Dixon, of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, then addressed the meeting on the subject of shore birds, illustrating his remarks with specimens, and pointing out critical characteristics for field identification of the species most likely to be encountered in this vicinity. The assistance afforded by his remarks was highly appreciated by all his hearers.

Following the lecture, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers and directors for the ensuing year, with the following results:

Honorary President	Joseph Dixon
President	A. S. Kibbe
First Vice-President	Mrs. Mabel Pierce Thompson
Second Vice-President	G. T. Marsh
Recording Secretary	Miss Hilda Baily
Corresponding Secretary	C. B. Lastreto

Treasurer.....C. R. Thomas
Director.....C. R. Smith
Director.....Miss Clelia Paroni
Director.....Louis Rapp, Jr.

* * *

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

We are to-night, in a modest way, celebrating the sixth anniversary of the founding of our society, and for the fifth time we linger to look back over a year that has come and gone.

Our achievements have not been spectacular but we can derive some satisfaction from the knowledge that, if inclement weather conditions had not interfered with two of our most popular field trips, to Lake Merced and Golden Gate Park, the attendance upon field trips would have greatly exceeded that of any previous year. Financially, we are holding our own. We have gauged our expenditures by our income.

We are not recruiting new members to the extent that might be desired. Our old members have held together loyally, especially the founders, but we should receive a steady infusion of new blood. Do not misunderstand my meaning or my ideas. I have no regard for mere numbers, but our success in passing our message is to be judged, to a degree, by the number of new members whose interest is awakened by us. We are, of course, glad to greet visitors and guests, who have been attending meetings and field trips in steadily increasing numbers, and we are entitled to feel that their continued and repeated presence is a sign of interest in our objects, but there must always remain the question how permanent this interest may be. If each active member could recruit one new member each year, our growth would be steady and healthy, but we have thus far been unable to realize this happy result.

Many of us have had occasion to regret the advent of a new process in commercial life, introduced into this locality by a firm of publishers, old established, and of sufficiently good repute to have warranted the thought that they were superior to such methods. The basis of this scheme has been the exploitation of the awakening tendency to nature study by the establishment of Nature Clubs, without dues, at the primary expense of the selling agents or publishers, membership being conditioned upon the possession of certain books, (which may, of course, be obtained from the agent). When a territory has ceased to furnish enough new subscribers to the books, the agent melts away, leaving the new organization to stand or fall on its own responsibility.

The Audubon Association of the Pacific, and all other kindred organizations, must be content to stand squarely upon their own achievements and we can make no complaint if new societies are able to accomplish like objects more attractively or at less expense, but the temporary and fitful support of a commercial enterprise, accorded to a new organization in a field already fully equipped with similar societies, handicaps the old societies that have to pay their own bills, without affording a sound basis for the establishment of the new one.

It is also probable that a presiding officer with better publicity instincts, or of a more magnetic personality, would attract people, whether they were seriously interested or not, but the objects and methods of the Association must in the long run determine its membership. Plans have been discussed for bringing our work more definitely and systematically before those who might be expected to join us and we may feel confident of the results.

Our visit to the Farallones in August last not only afforded a day of delight to those able to go, but it also developed an opportunity for useful work in determining the status of the various species breeding on the islands and of analyzing the inter-relations of these species, with especial reference to the preponderating tendencies of the Western Gulls. It is hoped that a good census of the bird population of the South Farallon may be taken during the coming season.

Acknowledgment is due to each of the ladies and gentlemen who have contributed so largely to our welfare by furnishing the features for our meetings. This would be difficult, indeed, if it were not for the cordial assistance so cheerfully vouchsafed by our friends in the University and in the Academy of Sciences. We are likewise under obligations to the Board of Library Trustees and especially to its genial Librarian, for their kindly consideration and hospitality in permitting the use of this room for our meetings. It is, however, a fact to be regretted that the move up-town from the Ferry Building to the Civic Centre has, to a considerable degree, made it more difficult for East Bay members to attend.

The various activities of the Association have been fully set forth in the monthly bulletin and I will not impose upon your patience by repeating them here, but will conclude this report by expressing my hopes for a prosperous and useful year to come to each individual member, bespeaking at the same time his or her hearty support and co-operation in bringing the same good fortune to our Association.

A. S. Kibbe.

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REPORT OF THE OUTING COMMITTEE FOR 1922

Your Committee submits the following results of the monthly field trips taken during the year 1922.

The regular trips were taken once to each of the following: Lake Merritt and Trestle Glen, Easton and San Andreas Lake, Fairfax, Alpine Lake and Ross, Niles Canyon, Lafayette, Tennessee Cove, Point Bonita, Baumberg, Lake Merced, University of California Campus, and twice to Golden Gate Park, once in the Spring and again in the Winter.

The outstanding event of the year was a special trip made to the Farallones during August.

On the thirteen trips taken in 1922, 135 different species of birds were observed, with an average of 39 birds per trip. University Campus proved to be the most popular in attendance but February at Easton and March at Fairfax, Alpine Lake and Ross, held the highest number of species seen on any trip, viz: fifty two each.

The number of members attending the trips dropped a trifle this year, thirty-four attending as against forty two in 1921. Trips taken by guests increased, however, to sixty as against forty two last year. The total average attendance was sixteen, of whom eleven were members and five were guests.

For the first time in the existence of the Association threatening and unfavorable weather conditions resulted in reducing the parties to very small proportions notwithstanding the fact that the localities visited were two of the most popular ones in our itinerary. If it had not been for this fact the average attendance would have out-ranked that during 1921.

In 1920 your Committee expressed itself as feeling that the welfare of our Association depended largely upon the assistance rendered by the older members in leading and assisting the newer ones and urged their cooperation in this direction. The response in 1921 was very gratifying. However, during the past year much of the leadership has devolved upon fewer differ-

ent members. Your Committee greatly appreciates the help afforded in 1922 but hopes that more of our members who are competent to lead and are willing to assist others will find time to do so during the year to come.

* * *

JANUARY FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 14th, to Lake Merritt and Trestle Glen. A beautiful day brought out a party of usual size which arrived at the feeding pen in time to witness the morning banquet.

Nearly three hours were spent in observing the water birds. Of the birds seen last year, there were missed the red head, the scoters and Western gulls, and as then, no teal were on the lake. The ruddy ducks have been numerous during the passing season, but were present in very small numbers this time. The canvasbacks are loitering here later than last year, their numbers being nearly doubled.

A little scaup was observed swimming with everything but his head and neck submerged and he was readily caught when with great labor he succeeded in drawing himself up on the top of the culvert at the Embarcadero. Examination showed that his feathers were impregnated with crude oil and the skin wet ever a large part of the body. The party adjourned to a service station for gasoline and several members united in an effort to relieve the chilled and miserable bird, but to little effect and with much regret it was placed under a bush in the feeding pen, with little or no chance for life.

The party then proceeded to Trestle Glen for lunch and the usual walk up the trail to the Piedmont car for the return. Land birds encountered were: California quail, red-tailed and sparrow hawks, flicker and California jay; Brewer blackbird, linnet, green-backed goldfinch, Nuttall sparrow, junco and song sparrow; San Francisco and California towhees, thrasher, Vigors wren and titmouse; bush and wren-tits, ruby-crowned kinglet, hermit thrush, robin and varied thrush. Twenty two land species and sixteen water species, as shown by following census. Thirty eight species in all.

Eared grebes	40	Shovellers	50
Pied-billed grebes	3	Pintails	700
Glaucous-winged gulls	15	Canvas-backs	900
California gulls	150	Scaup	225
Ring-billed gulls	few	Golden-eyes	20
Immature gulls	20	Buffle-heads	5
Mallards	20	Ruddy ducks	50
European widgeon	1	Coots	600
Baldpates	450	Total number	3250

Members in attendance were: Mesdemoiselles Ames, Applegarth, Ayer, Farrell, Griffin, Johnson, Schroder, Sterne and Wilson; Mesdames Kelly and Kibbe; Messrs. Thomas and Kibbe. As guests, Mesdemoiselles Boston, Bullard, Lindemann, Mortesen and Weeber; Mr. and Mrs. Blumb, Messrs. Elmore and Lovett, Ananda and Henry Eric Jacobs. Thirteen members and eleven guests.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets.

Address Bulletin correspondence to President.

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